

CLAIMS

1. A lifting apparatus adapted to pivot a component hingedly attached to an automobile body, comprising:
 - a component having first and second attachment means for hingedly and releasably attaching said component to a vehicle body; and
 - an extension member having first and second ends and being operable to move from a normally retracted position to an extended position, said first end of said extension member being pivotally attached to said component and said second end of said extension member being adapted to be pivotally attached to the vehicle body,whereby when said component is hingedly attached to the vehicle body by said first and second attachment means in a closed position and said second end of said extension member is pivotally attached to the vehicle body, said extension member is in the retracted position, and when one of said first and second attachment means is released and said extension member is moved to the extended position, said component is pivoted at the other one of said first and second attachment means to an associated one of two open positions.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said extension member is a scissor jack extension member.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said extension member is attached to said component close to a center of gravity of said component.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1 including an actuator attached to said extension member for moving said extension member between the retracted position and the extended position.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said actuator is a hydraulic piston and cylinder assembly.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said cylinder and said piston are each pivotally attached to said extension member.

7. The apparatus according to claim 4 including a controller connected to said actuator and said first and second attachment means for selectively controlling said actuator and for selectively releasing said first and second attachment means.

8. A system for pivoting a moveable component of an automobile body, comprising:

a component adapted to be hingedly and releasably attached to the automobile body in a closed position at first and second attachment points by a first attachment means and a second attachment means respectively;

an extension member having first and second ends and operable to move from a normally retracted position to an extended position, said first end of said extension member being pivotally attached to said component at a third attachment point, said second end of said extension member adapted to be pivotally attached to the automobile body;

an actuator connected to said extension member and operable to move said extension member between the retracted and extended positions; and

whereby when a one of said first and second attachment means is released and said actuator is operated to move said extension member from the retracted position to the extended position, said component is moved from the closed position to an associated one of two open positions by pivoting about the other one of said first and second attachment means.

9. The system according to claim 10 wherein said extension member is a scissor jack extension member.

10. The system according to claim 10 wherein said third attachment point is intermediate said first and second attachment points.

11. The system according to claim 10 wherein said actuator is a hydraulic piston and cylinder assembly.

12. The system according to claim 10 wherein said component is adapted to enclose a compartment in the automobile body in the closed position.

13. The system according to claim 10 wherein said component is a trunk lid.

14. The system according to claim 10 including a controller connected to said actuator and said first and second attachment means and operable to selectively operate said actuator and to selectively release said first and second attachment means.

15. The system according to claim 14 wherein said controller is a Body Control Module.

16. A system for pivoting a moveable component of an automobile body, comprising:

an automobile body having a compartment with an opening formed therein;

5 a deck lid hingedly and releasably attached to said automobile body at a first attachment point and a second attachment point by first and second attachment means respectively, said component being sized to enclose said opening of said compartment;

10 an extension member having first and second ends and operable to move from a normally retracted position to an extended position, said first end of said extension member being pivotally attached to said deck lid at a third attachment point, said second end of said extension member being pivotally attached to said automobile body;

15 an actuator connected to said extension member and operable to move said extension member; and

a controller connected to said actuator and said first and second attachment means for selectively operating said actuator and for selectively releasing said first and second attachment means,

20 whereby when said controller releases a one of said first and second attachment points and operates said actuator to move said extension member, said extension member moves from said retracted position to said extended position and rotates said deck lid to an open position about said other of said first and second attachment points.

25

17. The system according to claim 16 wherein said controller is a Body Control Module.

18. The system according to claim 16 wherein said extension member is a scissor jack extension member.

19. The system according to claim 16 wherein said actuator is a hydraulic piston and cylinder assembly.